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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields concerns resolution 59/1, adopted during the second phase of the fifty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 1 to 4 September 2003.

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Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific

During the second phase of its fifty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 59/1, entitled "Regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", in which it recognized HIV/AIDS as a major development challenge of our times, which could unravel the many social and economic gains that the region has achieved. The resolution called for commitment and political will at the highest decision-making levels to implement the Declaration of Commitment and other important steps in the fight against the disease. It urged donor Governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, members of the United Nations system and the private sector to join in advocacy for a comprehensive response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and urged the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its sponsors to intensify efforts to ensure that the targets in the Declaration of Commitment are fulfilled in the Asian and Pacific region, especially those pertaining to young people aged 15 to 24. Finally, it requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to: intensify advocacy to promote the implementation of the political and resource commitments in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS; further strengthen United Nations regional coordination under its auspices; support and cooperate with all subregional groupings; mainstream HIV/AIDS into the programme of work of ESCAP; initiate measures to build national capacity to meet the challenge of HIV/AIDS effectively; and provide technical assistance for efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.